

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, July 16, 2013
Town Hall – Planning Board Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Mike Barry, Bob Hall, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

The meeting opened at 7:30.

1. **Adoption of agenda:** No changes
2. **Approval of minutes:** After some corrections, the June 18, 2013, minutes were approved. 5-0-1
3. **Member comments:**

Joanne: Joanne met a ham radio enthusiast at Three Mile Island, the AMC Camp on Lake Winnepesaukee, who had traveled to Northfield recently to broadcast from the summit of Mt. Crag. Mt Crag is one of the “summits” on the ham radio list, but is presently closed. Joanne also said that invitations for the Americorps picnic went out to Mount Grace staff members, the Conservation Commission, and Selectboard.

Mike: Mike and his family searched for a geocache site at the east end of Schell Bridge. There is also a site at the west entrance. No luck.

Sue: The Historical Commission, Historical Society, and NMH coordinated the “Day of History” which included tours to the Schell Bridge, Chateau, Hotel site, and Moody birthplace. The Historical Society presented the historical inventory of East Northfield which was funded by CPA money used as leverage for a Massachusetts Historical grant.

Jenny: Jenny attended the June 25 Selectboard meeting at which the Selectmen voted to contact NMH as soon as possible about the Millbrook wetlands. Jenny felt that the Selectboard was very positive. Kim McPhee from Franklin Regional Council of Governments also attended the meeting to brief the Selectboard about the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission activities involving the relicensing of First Light’s dams and Northfield Mountain. After Jenny urged the Selectboard to coordinate a town response, the Selectboard gave the responsibility to Tom Hutcheson.

Bob: In the Moody birthplace, Bob discovered a mural by Rufus Porter, an itinerant artist who often painted a mural or portrait in return for room and board. He is considered the “Leonardo DaVinci of the 19th c”. There is a Rufus Porter portrait in the Dickinson Library. Porter, also an inventor, was the founder and first editor of Scientific American.

4. **OSRP copies:** Jerry distributed copies of our new 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan which was printed by Lotus Graphics for \$906. This beautiful document, a labor of love by volunteers, was not only approved by the State, but it will be used as the new standard for other towns! Jerry distributed copies to some of the boards and committees. *Joanne will take a copy for Kate and place one in the new Open Space file box which will be kept in the Planning Board room.*

5. **Budget and expenses:** The printing cost of the OSPR is being paid from the 2013 budget. Jerry would like to use some of 2014 budget for kiosks and signs for trails.

6. **Millbrook and Crag Mr. updates:** Joanne reported on a meeting with Joshua Surette, AMC staff person responsible for the New England National Scenic Trail in Massachusetts, Charlie Tracy, National Park Service in Boston, and Don King who is responsible for realty activity at National Scenic Trails. Sue went to a meeting of Annie Chappell's group after the 6/25 Selectboard meeting. There is a need to develop a management plan for the Millbrook Conservation Area. Joanne reported that there is potential funding available for Millbrook from the National Scenic Byway program.

7. **Appointments:** The committee voted to appoint Jenny as our representative to the Community Preservation Committee. Sue/Mike 5-0-1. The committee voted to appoint Jerry as our representative to the Agricultural Commission. Sue/Mike 5-0-1. Bob Hall announced that the Historical Commission voted to appoint Bob to the Open Space Committee.

8. **Adjourn and next meeting:**

After some discussion the committee decided that the next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 1. *Sue will post the agenda to Gail by Sept. 26. Joanne will keep in touch with Josh Surette about Mt. Crag.* The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary